



From "The Kings England" Edited by Athur Mee.

Walsoken. It lies amongst the orchards. It is an ancient place named from the sea wall built by the Romans. Most of Walsoken has been taken from Norfolk into Cambridgeshire, although Norfolk has kept the Parish Church. It has one of the finest churches in East Anglia, crowned by a splendid medieval tower with four turrets and a spire. The massive Norman arcades are rich with zigzag mouldings, and the Chancel arch resting on banded shafts is magnificently carved, the work of craftsmen when the Norman style was passing. On one side is the 15th-century doorway to the old rood loft. There is a grand array of fine woodwork, and nearly all the roof grey with age are richly carved. The nave roof has painted angels and other figures in delicately canopied niches. There are 15th-century screens in both aisles, one with most intricate tracery, stalls with carved heads, battered figures on old benches, and over the tower arch two paintings of the judgement of Solomon with a statue of a king enthroned between them.

But the chief treasure among so much splendour is the magnificent 400-year old font, looking like ivory rather than stone, with sculptures of the crucifixion and seven sacraments, eight saints under rich canopies, and round the base this inscription to those friends of the church who gave it: "Remember the souls of S. Honyter and Margaret his wife, and John Benforth, Chaplain 1544." One child baptised at this font grew up to be arch bishop of Canterbury. He was the Rector's boy, Thomas Herring, who became Archbishop in 1747, and a little while before he died put a tablet in the chancel here "in grateful memory of his excellent parents." He was a man of immense enthusiasm and full of generosity.